

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A1
--**Figs. 2A-2D** illustrate in somewhat more details some of the components of the system of Fig. 1 as used in the exemplary experiments: Fig. 2A shows a DNA strand covalently bound to biotin; Fig. 2B illustrates the chemical reaction, catalyzed by horseradish peroxidase (HRP), in which 4-chloro- naphthol is reacted to form an insoluble product; Fig. 2C shows the structure of the thiophosphate thymine; and Fig. 2D shows the sequence of some oligonucleotides used in the exemplary experiments (SEQ ID NOs:1-4).--

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A2
--**Fig. 4B** shows the sequence of the different oligonucleotides used in a system of the kind illustrated in Fig. 4B (SEQ ID NOs:5-9), in the accompanying experiments. m